

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 2, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response extended one month to expire on August 2, 2004. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-85 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 33-35 and 78-80 stand rejected. Claims 36 to 38 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1-32, 39-77 and 81-85 are indicated to be allowable by the Examiner.

Applicants have cancelled claims 34, 35, and 78-80 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Applicants have simply cancelled those claims to place the application in condition for allowance and preserve the right to pursue the cancelled subject matter in a divisional application. Applicants have also amended the objected claim 36 to present the subject matter of claim 36 in independent form. As such, Applicants submit that claim 36 and those dependent therefrom are in condition for allowance as noted by the Examiner.

Furthermore, Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, 10, 13, 21-22, 25-27, 31, and 36-40 to correct a matter of form. Particularly, Applicants have amended those claims to specifically recite "greater than," which was previously implied in the original claims. Applicants submit that this proposed amendment positively recites the implied limitation of "greater than" and presents the claims more clearly.

Claims 33 and 80 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,689,216 (*Nevers, et al.*). Claims 34, 35, 78 and 79 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,261,433 (*Landau*). Claim 80 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0000604 (*Bishop, et al.*). The rejected claims are cancelled except for claim 33 which is amended. Applicants have amended claim 33 to incorporate the allowable subject matter, as represented in claim 36, for example. As such, Applicants submit that claim 33 is now in condition for allowance.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



Robb D. Edmonds

Registration No. 46,681

MOSER, PATTERSON & SHERIDAN, L.L.P.

3040 Post Oak Blvd. Suite 1500

Houston, TX 77056

Telephone: (713) 623-4844

Facsimile: (713) 623-4846

Attorney for Applicants